

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
1	Option B is correct	When describing the penguins, the author mostly focuses on their friendly and entertaining behavior. In paragraph 15, the author explains that the penguins greeted them when they arrived. In paragraph 18, the author recalls a comical time when two parent penguins left their three chicks with Claire and another time when a penguin “pointed a wing in the correct direction” of their ship when asked where the ship was.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 18, the author describes a time when two penguins left their chicks with Claire as the babysitter, but this is more of a detail to explain their entertaining behavior rather than their concern for the chicks.
	Option C is incorrect	The author expresses awe at the penguins’ ability to survive in their environment only in paragraph 19, so it is not the author’s focus.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not describe any ways in which the penguins depend on one another.
2	Option H is correct	“Recognized in a negative way” is the phrase that best matches the meaning of <u>notoriously</u> as it is used in paragraph 4. It is explained that the Drake Passage is known to be a “violent area of ocean” and “the roughest stretch of sea on the planet,” which can be considered negative qualities.
	Option F is incorrect	The word <u>notoriously</u> is used to describe how violent the Drake Passage is, not how often it is traveled.
	Option G is incorrect	The word <u>notoriously</u> is used to describe how violent the Drake Passage is, not its ability to be located.
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author states that “to reach Antarctica, ships must pass through” the Drake Passage, so it is not being viewed from a distance.

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3	Option D is correct	The author’s main message is best conveyed by this sentence. Traveling through the Drake Passage and interacting with the emperor penguins were memorable experiences. In order to see the penguins, the author had to endure traveling through the Drake Passage. He repeats the phrase “No pain, no gain” (paragraphs 1 and 22) to explain this contrast.
	Option A is incorrect	The positive experience of seeing the penguins (the “gain”) is not reflected in this sentence, so the author’s message of “No pain, no gain” is not conveyed.
	Option B is incorrect	This sentence is about the “pain” half of the “No pain, no gain” message. The “pain” was the Drake passage, not the cold of Antarctica mentioned in the option, so the author’s message is not conveyed by this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The power of the sea is referenced in the sentence, but the author’s message of “No pain, no gain” is not conveyed.
4	Option G is correct	“Penguin etiquette” is a set of guidelines for interacting with penguins. The organizers of the expedition created “penguin etiquette” most likely to minimize the possible negative effects of visitors on the penguin habitat. The rules outlined in paragraph 13 provide boundaries for the humans as they interact with the penguins in their environment.
	Option F is incorrect	“Penguin etiquette” is a set of guidelines for interacting with penguins. The interactions between the penguins and visitors are not limited, so this is not why the rules were created.
	Option H is incorrect	“Penguin etiquette” is a set of guidelines for interacting with penguins. It has nothing to do with the challenges penguins face, so this is not a reason the rules were created.
	Option J is incorrect	“Penguin etiquette” limits what visitors are allowed to do. It does not boost visitors’ chances of seeing the penguins, so this is not a reason the rules were created.

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5	Option D is correct	The author most likely gained an increased respect for the power of nature. In paragraph 19, he expresses his respect for the penguins' ability to "survive in Antarctica, an incredibly harsh place," and in paragraph 20, he explains that he "came to respect and even revere the power of that sea," referring to the Drake Passage.
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not discuss <i>how</i> the penguins survive in such a cold climate; instead, he expresses awe at their ability to survive.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not discuss any journey other than the one to Antarctica in the selection.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not discuss his daughter's enjoyment of activities in the selection.
6	Option G is correct	The best summary of the selection is presented in these sentences. The author's journey to Antarctica and his experience with the penguins are both described, and the author's message of "No pain, no gain" is restated.
	Option F is incorrect	The author's message of "No pain, no gain" is not included in this summary, and the last sentence about rules is a detail, so this is not the best summary of the selection.
	Option H is incorrect	The author's experience traveling through the dangerous Drake Passage is not included in this summary, so it is not the best summary of the selection.
	Option J is incorrect	This summary is comprised of minor details, and key ideas from the selection (such as the author's interactions with the penguins) are omitted, so this is not the best summary.

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7	Option D is correct	The author’s enthusiasm during his observation of the penguins is best expressed in this sentence from paragraph 18. In this sentence, the author recalls an exciting and incredible moment when a penguin seemed to understand what he was saying.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the author is simply describing what he viewed from afar; there is no enthusiasm about what is happening.
	Option B is incorrect	The idea that penguins are “curious and not fearful of humans” is the author’s observation, not an expression of enthusiasm.
	Option C is incorrect	The author had not reached the penguin colony in this sentence, so he is not expressing any enthusiasm while observing penguins.
8	Option F is correct	The sensory language in this sentence reveals the sense of relief and accomplishment that the author felt. The “sweet bite of the cold, clean air” is used to suggest that, although cold air might be something to avoid, the author considered it positive because it meant that he was close to his destination.
	Option G is incorrect	The sensory language in this sentence is used to reveal how the author felt about arriving in Antarctica. The description does not indicate that the author has an understanding of “extreme weather conditions” in Antarctica.
	Option H is incorrect	The author is not indicating frustration in this sentence; he was relieved to finally feel Antarctica’s “sweet bite” of “cold, clean air.”
	Option J is incorrect	There is no expression of anticipation in this sentence.

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9	Option B is correct	The heat generated by the geothermal vents made the survival of nearby plants surprising. It is explained in paragraph 1 that the ground temperature near the vents can “rise to more than 150 degrees Fahrenheit,” a temperature that usually kills plants, which led Rodriguez to wonder “how these plants were able to flourish.”
	Option A is incorrect	The plants grow near the geothermal vents, not inside them, so the depth of the vents does not affect the plants’ survival.
	Option C is incorrect	Although it is stated in paragraph 1 that there are “[t]housands of geothermal vents,” the number of vents does not affect the plants’ survival.
	Option D is incorrect	The plants grow near the geothermal vents, not inside them, so the pressure released by the vents does not affect the plants’ survival.
10	Option G is correct	The effect that endophytes can have on plants is demonstrated in the photograph and caption after paragraph 4. In the caption, it is explained that both plants “experienced six days of drought conditions.” The plant on the left in the photograph is small and shriveled, while the plant on the right (the one that was treated with the endophyte mixture) is healthy and tall.
	Option F is incorrect	In the photograph and caption, there is no explanation of <i>how</i> endophytes work to help plants, just a demonstration that they do have an effect on plants.
	Option H is incorrect	Although the plants in the photograph are specifically soy plants, it is not specified in the caption that endophytes help <i>only</i> soy plants, and no other types of plants are mentioned.
	Option J is incorrect	Although the conditions under which the plants in the photograph were grown are specified in the caption, it is not stated that plants cannot be protected by endophytes in other conditions.

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11	Option B is correct	The steps Rodriguez followed while researching plants in his laboratory are described in paragraphs 2 through 4. In paragraph 2, Rodriguez “took plant samples back to his laboratory,” where he studied them and discovered endophytes on the plants. In paragraph 3, the author explains Rodriguez’s hypothesis that endophytes could protect plants, and in paragraph 4 that hypothesis is tested.
	Option A is incorrect	The plants are never compared to the endophytes living on the plants, so this is not how paragraphs 2 through 4 are organized.
	Option C is incorrect	The problem Rodriguez was trying to solve is explained in paragraph 1. In paragraphs 2 through 4, the author focuses on the research done to solve the problem.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no mention in paragraphs 2 through 4 of the structure of the plants Rodriguez collected from Yellowstone National Park.
12	Option F is correct	Paragraph 1 is mostly about the unusual conditions in which some plants can survive. The author describes the very hot landscape of Yellowstone National Park and introduces a microbiologist, Rusty Rodriguez, who wondered how plants “were able to flourish in such extreme temperatures.”
	Option G is incorrect	The mention of geothermal vents in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho is a detail used to describe the landscape of Yellowstone National Park, where some plants can survive despite extreme temperatures.
	Option H is incorrect	The mention of geothermal vents releasing steam is a detail used to describe the landscape of Yellowstone National Park, where some plants can survive despite extreme temperatures.
	Option J is incorrect	The specific types of plants at Yellowstone National Park are not mentioned in paragraph 1, so this is not what the paragraph is about.

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13	Option D is correct	In paragraph 2, Rodriguez discovered that endophytes help plants “handle climate stressors,” and in paragraph 4, he experimented with restoring endophytes to plants and was successful in growing plants that are “healthier and more resilient.” The restorative effects of endophytes on crops and the future use of endophytes are also discussed in paragraphs 5 and 6.
	Option A is incorrect	As described in paragraphs 5 and 6, Rodriguez’s endophyte solution is mainly used to help protect crops, not plants in national parks.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Rodriguez’s endophyte solution helps protect plants in drought conditions, there is nothing in the selection that says the plants do not need to be watered.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no mention of Rodriguez’s endophyte solution allowing farmers to plant crops regardless of the season.
14	Option J is correct	The main idea of paragraph 3 is best expressed in this statement. In paragraph 3, the author describes concrete as “one of the most important building materials” and then describes some of the past and present uses of concrete.
	Option F is incorrect	In this statement, only two details of how concrete is used are described instead of the overall importance of concrete, which is the main idea of the paragraph.
	Option G is incorrect	In this statement, only one detail of how concrete was used in the past is described instead of the overall importance of concrete, which is the main idea of the paragraph.
	Option H is incorrect	In this statement, only the demand for concrete is detailed instead of the overall importance of concrete, which is the main idea of the paragraph.

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15	Option B is correct	From reading the information in paragraph 6, the reader can understand that bioconcrete is effective in repairing water damage. The author describes bioconcrete as “self-healing,” and lists different places susceptible to water damage where bioconcrete has successfully been used.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the places mentioned by the author could be affected by harsh weather, it is specifically bioconcrete’s ability to repair water damage that is discussed in paragraph 6.
	Option C is incorrect	There is no mention of a weight limit in paragraph 6, so this is not something the reader can understand from the paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author mentions bioconcrete being used specifically in the Netherlands and Ecuador, that does not mean it is limited to use in certain parts of the world.
16	Option H is correct	The author organizes paragraph 1 by stating a popular belief about bacteria and then disproving it with examples. The author begins by describing bacteria’s reputation as “harmful” and then explains that some bacteria, such as the bacteria in fermented food products and in our body, are good.
	Option F is incorrect	Although the author mentions that bacteria can help fight diseases, there is no listing of types of bacteria, so this is not how paragraph 1 is organized.
	Option G is incorrect	The author does not offer any definition of bacteria, so this is not how the paragraph is organized.
	Option J is incorrect	The author does not offer any comparison between good and bad bacteria, so this is not how the paragraph is organized.
17	Option C is correct	The best summary of the article is presented in these sentences. The scientist Hendrik Jonkers and his study of bacteria and concrete are described, including his invention of bioconcrete.
	Option A is incorrect	Bioconcrete is not mentioned in this summary, making it incomplete.
	Option B is incorrect	Descriptions of the use and effectiveness of bioconcrete are not included in these sentences, so this is not the best summary.
	Option D is incorrect	There are only a few details included in these sentences, rather than main ideas and key points, so this is not the best summary.

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18	Option J is correct	The author most likely includes information about human bones' ability to self-repair to provide an example of the goal of Jonkers' research. Jonkers wanted to find out if bacteria could "heal" nonliving substances" in a way similar to bones, so he experimented with adding bacteria to concrete.
	Option F is incorrect	Jonkers' research focused on applying bacteria to concrete; he does not advocate for more research concerning skeletal injuries.
	Option G is incorrect	Although in paragraph 1 the author introduces the idea that bacteria can be good for people's health, this sentence from paragraph 2 does not have anything to do with bacteria.
	Option H is incorrect	In this sentence the author states a fact about bones in the human body. It does not show any need for Jonkers' research on bacteria.
19	Option A is correct	Rodriguez and Jonkers both created mixtures using living materials. Rodriguez used "tiny strands of fungi called endophytes" (paragraph 2) to help restore a plant's natural protection. Jonkers used bacteria to give concrete the ability to repair itself when it cracks.
	Option B is incorrect	Although Rodriguez went to Yellowstone National Park, there is no context to support the idea that the park was unfamiliar to him, and there is nothing mentioned about Jonkers traveling anywhere, so this is not a similarity.
	Option C is incorrect	Although Jonkers researched "certain living organisms" (paragraph 2) to see how they "heal themselves when injured," Rodriguez studied only plants, not animals, so this is not a similarity.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Rodriguez found that endophyte fungi allowed plants to be "protected from heat or cold" (paragraph 4), Jonkers' research did not consider temperature, so this is not a similarity.

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20	Option H is correct	In this sentence from "Persevering Plants" the author describes the success of Rodriguez's endophyte mixture. Similarly, Jonkers' bioconcrete was successful because it helped the lifeguard station remain intact.
	Option F is incorrect	The author uses this sentence to explain that the bacteria can live in the concrete for a long time without dying, but no success in repairing cracked concrete is mentioned, so an outcome similar to Rodriguez's success is not shown.
	Option G is incorrect	In this sentence, an example of the application of bioconcrete in the real world is described, but it is not stated whether it was successful, so an outcome similar to Rodriguez's success is not shown.
	Option J is incorrect	An example of the application of bioconcrete in the real world is described in this sentence, but it is not stated whether it was successful, so an outcome similar to Rodriguez's success is not shown.
21	Option A is correct	The one problem presented about bioconcrete that is not presented about endophyte fungi is that bioconcrete is expensive to produce. In paragraph 7 of "The Cure for Concrete," it is explained that bioconcrete is "50 percent more costly to create than traditional concrete," but there is no mention of the cost of treating plants with endophyte fungi.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 3 of "Persevering Plants," the author does explain that pesticides and fertilizer unintentionally destroy endophytes, but there is no mention of bioconcrete being unintentionally destroyed.
	Option C is incorrect	It is not specified in "The Cure for Concrete" whether the bacteria in bioconcrete are harmful.
	Option D is incorrect	Both endophytes and bioconcrete are exposed to weather conditions.

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22	Option G is correct	The difference between Rodriguez’s endophyte mixture and the bacteria in Jonkers’ products is that the endophyte mixture covers the outside of the seeds, or is “applied to the seeds” (paragraph 4), while the “bacteria are placed inside plastic capsules that are mixed into wet concrete” (paragraph 5).
	Option F is incorrect	Bacteria in concrete could probably be detected the same way as on seeds — with a microscope.
	Option H is incorrect	“Endophytes are found on “[a]bout 80 percent of the earth’s plants” (paragraph 3), while bacteria does not occur naturally in concrete and has to be added using “plastic capsules that are mixed into wet concrete” (paragraph 5).
	Option J is incorrect	In paragraph 5 of “The Cure for Concrete,” the author explains that “water enters through cracks in the concrete” before the bacteria are released, so this is not beginning work immediately.
23	Option C is correct	The idea that new poems do not come to mind right away is emphasized by the simile in lines 7 and 8. A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word “like” or “as.” The poet explains that words in a poem “don’t appear like a dog when you call their name,” which helps express the idea that a new poem cannot be summoned like a dog and appear immediately.
	Option A is incorrect	The simile is used by the poet to express the challenge of writing poetry, not to explain what form poems can take.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet uses the simile to express the challenge of writing poems not to assess their value.
	Option D is incorrect	Although a dog is mentioned in line 8, the poet uses the simile to express that new poems do not come to mind right away, not to compare writing poetry to having a pet.

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24	Option G is correct	The definition “to be able to spare or give up” is the best match for the way the word <u>afford</u> is used in line 4. The speaker of the poem is unable to give up paying attention in class.
	Option F is incorrect	The speaker expresses no financial cost associated with paying attention in class, so this is not the best match for the way <u>afford</u> is used in line 4.
	Option H is incorrect	The speaker of the poem is not talking about providing for anyone, so this is not the best match for the way <u>afford</u> is used in line 4.
	Option J is incorrect	The speaker of the poem is not talking about being “the cause or source of” not paying attention in class, so this is not the way <u>afford</u> is used in line 4.
25	Option C is correct	In lines 21 and 22, the poet is describing the process of revising a poem’s ideas and words. The poet explains that poetry is “muddy” at first and needs rearranging.
	Option A is incorrect	The poet does not find a topic to write about in the text of lines 21 and 22; instead, the poet captures the initial idea for a topic in lines 20 and 21 when she writes “usually poetry slops lazily over the couch/of a page and dangles.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although the poet uses words in lines 21 and 22 that help express the poet’s experience of writing a poem, this language is specifically used to describe the process of revising the poem’s ideas and words.
	Option D is incorrect	In lines 21 and 22, the poet is still working on the poem, so it is not yet ready to share with an audience.

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26	Option F is correct	The title is effective because it is used to suggest that the speaker desires more poetry to come into her life. Because the speaker does not always seem very enthusiastic about poetry, the title is helpful because it helps explain that although writing poetry can be a messy, inconvenient process, the author still welcomes more chances to write poetry.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the speaker explains “now i write poetry in my/free time” (lines 5 and 6), she also explains that poetry shows up whenever it wants to, so she cannot schedule time. However, she can invite it into her life.
	Option H is incorrect	The speaker explains that she writes poetry in her free time, not while at school. The title suggests that she invites poetry into her life, but she does not necessarily do any type of poetry assignments.
	Option J is incorrect	The “invitation” the speaker is extending is for poetry to come into her life, not for people to enjoy her poems.
27	Option C is correct	The poet uses the contrasting images in lines 17 through 22 to suggest that writing poetry is often not easy. Instead of poetry that comes easily or steps “delicately” wearing “pink shoes treading softly” (lines 18 and 19), the speaker experiences poetry that is messy as it “slops lazily,” “dangles,” and wears “muddy shoes” (lines 20 through 22).
	Option A is incorrect	The speaker is not saying poetry is relaxing. It is the opposite of relaxing because it requires a lot of rearranging of words and ideas.
	Option B is incorrect	The poet does not talk about being sensitive by nature in these lines.
	Option D is incorrect	The poet does not discuss any involvement of imagination; instead, she describes poems as if they have a life of their own and show up when they want, which makes writing poetry difficult.

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28	Option J is correct	The poet uses lines 1 through 6 to establish that the speaker wishes she had more time to write poetry. The speaker explains that she “used to write poetry in art class,” but now she doesn’t take art and has to pay attention in other classes, so she has to try to write in her free time.
	Option F is incorrect	The speaker describes how she wrote poetry in art class because that’s when she could make time for it, not because art and poetry are similar.
	Option G is incorrect	Although the speaker explains that she used to write poetry “when the teacher wasn’t looking” (line 2), it was because she wasn’t supposed to be writing poetry at that time, not because she wanted to keep it secret.
	Option H is incorrect	The poet does not offer any opinions on the importance of poetry in school.
29	Option B is correct	“Gist memory” is when the brain remembers a general idea. In paragraph 6, the author explains that we don’t normally remember every detail of a logo because our brains filter out the unnecessary information and remember only “the basic idea without all of the details.”
	Option A is incorrect	“Gist memory” is when the brain remembers a general idea, not specific details.
	Option C is incorrect	“Gist memory” is when the brain remembers a general idea, not when the brain connects information.
	Option D is incorrect	When the brain experiences constant exposure to images, it creates a general idea of them; it does not overlook them.

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30	Option J is correct	The meaning of <u>prevalent</u> as it is used in paragraph 6 is “widespread.” In paragraph 6, the author explains that when a logo is everywhere and people can recognize the image, they become familiar with it and feel “more comfortable about purchasing” products with that logo.
	Option F is incorrect	The author uses the word <u>prevalent</u> to describe how often certain logos appear rather than how detailed they are, which is what “elaborate” would be used to suggest.
	Option G is incorrect	The word <u>prevalent</u> is used to describe how often certain logos appear rather than how creative they are, so this is not the meaning.
	Option H is incorrect	The author uses the word <u>prevalent</u> to describe how often certain logos appear rather than how necessary they are, so this is not the meaning.
31	Option B is correct	The author provides the example of participants in a study who could not recall details of images they saw daily to explain “attentional saturation.” In paragraph 4, the author explains that “attentional saturation” happens when our brains overlook logos that we see frequently, making it hard to recall them.
	Option A is incorrect	Although it is explained in paragraph 1 that logos “help us remember a product or service connected to that image,” the idea of “attentional saturation” applies to instances where the details of the logo are actually forgotten.
	Option C is incorrect	It is stated in paragraph 5 that there are business experts who “believe in the importance of a recognizable logo,” but this is not an example of “attentional saturation.”
	Option D is incorrect	One of the memory recall studies is described here, but the outcome (the fact that the students couldn’t correctly recall the logo) is not described, so it does not demonstrate “attentional saturation.”

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32	Option H is correct	In this sentence, the author explains that our brains do not remember the details of product logos, implying that companies may want to reconsider their approach to branding their products.
	Option F is incorrect	In this sentence, the author describes where we see logos, so this would actually further encourage the use of logos rather than make companies reconsider their approach to branding.
	Option G is incorrect	This sentence is used to introduce the idea of “attentional saturation,” not to make a suggestion about companies’ approach to branding.
	Option J is incorrect	This sentence is used to explain that many experts believe logos still work, so it would not be used to suggest that companies might want to reconsider their approach to branding.
33	Option A is correct	The author mentions common name brands in the first paragraph most likely to create a connection with the reader. By mentioning the “Nike ‘swoosh’” and the “colorful rings” of the Olympic Games, the author creates a picture of these logos in readers’ minds and helps them relate to what they are reading.
	Option B is incorrect	The author already defines logos as “distinct images used to represent brands” in paragraph 1. The inclusion of common name brands is intended to create a connection with the reader because they are something the reader would recognize.
	Option C is incorrect	The author is not offering any opinions in the first paragraph. Only facts are used to introduce the topic of remembering logos.
	Option D is incorrect	The author introduces the main idea of the selection <i>after</i> making a connection with the reader by mentioning common brands and logos.

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34	Option J is correct	Paragraph 2 is mainly about the results of a research study. The author details a study at UCLA that tested how well students could “draw the Apple logo purely from memory.” Most students could not recall the logo accurately, and less than half could identify the correct logo from a set of images.
	Option F is incorrect	The paragraph does include information that is mainly about the results of the study rather than the skill the study required.
	Option G is incorrect	Paragraph 2 does include information that mentions a certain technology brand, but its popularity is not discussed, so this is not what the paragraph is mainly about.
	Option H is incorrect	Although researchers thought at first that the students might be “just not very good at drawing,” this is just a single detail from the research study, not what the paragraph is mainly about.
35	Option B is correct	The author organizes the selection by presenting research about logos and then explaining how the brain perceives logos. The topic of logos is introduced in paragraph 1, and two studies on people’s difficulty in recalling logos are described in paragraphs 2 and 3. Paragraphs 4 through 7 explain why people don’t remember logos accurately all the time and how logos can still be valuable to a company.
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not offer any solutions to improve logos, so this is not how the selection is organized.
	Option C is incorrect	Although familiar logos are listed in paragraph 1, the author focuses more on people’s abilities to recall these logos rather than their influence in advertising.
	Option D is incorrect	Although the author discusses people’s ability to recall the design of a penny and states that although it “is not technically a logo, it is an object with which people have frequent interaction” (paragraph 3), these are details of a study and not how the overall selection is organized.

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36	Option H is correct	In paragraph 6, the author states, "When people are able to recognize an image, it can make them feel like they really know the product behind the logo." This makes people more likely to buy a product.
	Option F is incorrect	The author does not mention curiosity or a clever design in paragraph 6. The author focuses more on the familiarity of a logo.
	Option G is incorrect	The author does not mention seeing colorful labels or reading information in paragraph 6. The author focuses more on the familiarity of a logo.
	Option J is incorrect	Packaging is not mentioned in paragraph 6.
37	Option A is correct	The main role of Andy's art teacher is to help resolve Andy's conflict. In paragraph 15, Andy is discouraged because his classmates did not give him the reaction he was hoping for when he wore his new outfit to school. Ms. Greene offers him encouragement and a new perspective in paragraph 20 when she says this is his first outfit and he should think of it as "just the beginning."
	Option B is incorrect	Andy's art teacher does not create the setting. Andy is already in the art class when Ms. Greene begins a conversation with him.
	Option C is incorrect	Andy's art teacher does not help develop rising action. She does not have any part in the plot until paragraph 16.
	Option D is incorrect	Andy's art teacher does not offer any background information about Andy.

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38	Option F is correct	The best summary of the story is presented in these sentences. The rising action (Andy creating his own clothing), conflict (Andy doesn't get a good reaction from his classmates), and resolution (Ms. Greene helps him change his perspective) are all included.
	Option G is incorrect	The conflict and its resolution are not included in this summary, so it is not the best summary of the story.
	Option H is incorrect	The conflict and its resolution are not included in this summary, so it is not the best summary of the story.
	Option J is incorrect	The conflict and its resolution are not included in this summary, and Andy is not completing a school project.
39	Option B is correct	The description of how Mr. Simone "carefully, almost proudly, placed the newly perfected pants over his arm" creates an image of how tailoring can help people feel better. His actions show that he feels good about his tailored pants and is taking extra care with them.
	Option A is incorrect	These are technical things that Andy learned about tailoring, but an example of how tailoring can help people is not demonstrated in this sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The idea that tailoring is valuable is touched on in this sentence, but there is no image created that shows the reader an example of how tailoring can help people.
	Option D is incorrect	The reason that Andy wants to create his own clothes is touched on in this sentence, but there is no image created that shows the reader an example of how tailoring can help people.

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40	Option H is correct	In paragraph 15, the author suggests that the word <u>donned</u> means “put on.” The author explains that Andy had “ <u>donned</u> his creation proudly that morning,” or in other words, had worn or “put on” his outfit proudly.
	Option F is incorrect	Andy’s outfit is brand new; it would not have needed mending. In paragraph 15, he wishes he had changed his clothes because of the reaction he received, not because they were torn or damaged.
	Option G is incorrect	Although Andy did think about his creation with pride, the word <u>donned</u> is used to reference actually wearing the clothes, not thinking about them.
	Option J is incorrect	Andy actually wore his creation to school. He did not imagine it, so the word <u>donned</u> does not mean “imagined.”
41	Option D is correct	The lesson referred to in the title “The Lesson in Design” is Andy learning the consequences of trying something different. When Andy’s classmates don’t react positively to the outfit he designed, his teacher tells him that ““Not everyone is going to see things the way you do”” (paragraph 18).
	Option A is incorrect	Although Andy does learn how to work with clothing by watching his father, he already learned this before the story begins. The lesson in the story is about learning the consequences of trying something different.
	Option B is incorrect	Broden does not learn anything from Andy in this story, so this is not a lesson referred to in the title.
	Option C is incorrect	Broden does not learn how to feel proud of himself in this story, so this is not a lesson referred to in the title.

2019 STAAR Grade 8 Reading Rationales

Item#	Rationale	
42	Option H is correct	Based on this sentence, the reader can conclude that Andy feels compelled to sketch his designs at every opportunity. In his free time, when he has the chance to do anything he wants, he chooses to sketch.
	Option F is incorrect	Andy spends a lot of time on his drawings, so it is unlikely that he puts very little thought into his designs.
	Option G is incorrect	Andy chooses to spend his free time drawing, so he is not bored.
	Option J is incorrect	Andy is not unsure about anything in this sentence.
43	Option D is correct	The theme of the story is expressed in this sentence. Andy’s “Lesson in Design” is that he has to accept that people’s reactions might not always be positive when he tries something new.
	Option A is incorrect	This is a lesson that Andy’s father teaches him about tailoring, but it is not the theme of the story.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the author includes details about Andy’s trip to the fabric store, but the theme of the story is not expressed.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence, Andy’s motivation to create something extraordinary is described, but the overall theme is not expressed.
44	Option H is correct	A simile is a figure of speech in which two objects are compared using the word “like” or “as.” The author uses a simile in this sentence to illustrate how discouraged Andy feels by his peers’ reactions to his outfit. The phrase “like a spent parachute” helps the reader understand that Andy is empty of the pride that previously filled him because no one liked his creation.
	Option F is incorrect	Andy is not having difficulty concentrating; instead, he is discouraged because he did not get the reaction he desired.
	Option G is incorrect	The author uses this simile to illustrate Andy’s discouragement, not to describe any reaction the students have.
	Option J is incorrect	Andy is not exhausted. He is discouraged because he did not get the reaction he desired from his new clothing design.